



News Release

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Contact: Media inquiries: Sharon Moysiuk, Communications Office 360-236-4074
Public inquiries: Health Systems Customer Service 360-236-4700

State disciplines health care providers

OLYMPIA — The Washington State Department of Health has taken disciplinary actions or withdrawn charges against health care providers in our state.

The department's Health Systems Quality Assurance Office works with boards, commissions, and advisory committees to set licensing standards for more than 70 health care professions (e.g., medical doctors, nurses, counselors).

Information about health care providers is on the agency website. Click on "Provider Credential Search" on the left hand side of the [Department of Health home page](http://www.doh.wa.gov) (www.doh.wa.gov). The site includes information about a health care provider's license status, the expiration and renewal date of their credential, disciplinary actions and copies of legal documents issued after July 1998. This information is also available by calling 360-236-4700. Consumers who think a health care provider acted unprofessionally are also encouraged to call and report their complaint.

Chelan County

In July 2010 the Massage Program charged **Nichole C. Rueth** (MA00016599) with unprofessional conduct. She was convicted of theft.

Franklin County

In July 2010 the Board of Physical Therapy reinstated the license of **Melina D. Irvine** (PT00005994).

Island County

In July 2010 the Board of Pharmacy denied the applications of **Courtney Sheree Mullins** (VB60116982, VA60101485) for credentials as a pharmacy assistant and pharmacy technician. She worked as a pharmacy technician without a valid pharmacy technician or pharmacy assistant credential.

King County

In July 2010 the Nursing Assistant Program released certified nursing assistant **Afemuya Mesfin** (NC10002622) from terms and conditions set against her certification.

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In July 2010 the Health Care Assistant Program charged **Justine A. Stephens** (HC60102277) with unprofessional conduct. She was convicted of possession of cocaine base.

Kitsap County

In July 2010 the Nursing Assistant Program denied the certification application of certified nursing assistant **Lucas James Bennet** (NC60091620). While working as a registered nursing assistant, he diverted a fentanyl patch from a patient, and diverted fentanyl for his own use. He entered a drug diversion program on a pending charge of possession of a controlled substance.

In July 2010 the Nursing Assistant Program charged certified nursing assistant **Deliyha R. Hopkins** (NA00201558, NC60105581) with unprofessional conduct. She allegedly received a picture of a vulnerable adult patient bent over and naked, and failed to report the picture.

Lincoln County

In July 2010 the Nursing Assistant Program granted the application of **Michelle DeAnne Atkinson** (NA60111426) and placed conditions against her registration. She was convicted of possession of a controlled substance — methamphetamine, and theft. She must comply with terms and conditions set against her registration.

Pierce County

In July 2010 the Chemical Dependency Professional Program granted the application of chemical dependency professional trainee **Dustin William Doerflinger** (CO60166504) and placed his certification on probation for two years. In November 2009 terms and conditions were placed against his credential to practice as a registered counselor. He must comply with terms and conditions set against his certification.

In July 2010 the Medical Commission charged physician **Dennis J. Geyer** (MD00048961) with unprofessional conduct. He was criminally convicted of assault.

In July 2010 the Nursing Commission charged licensed practical nurse **Erin E. Renn** (LP00040906) with unprofessional conduct. She allegedly failed to comply with terms and conditions set against her license.

In July 2010 the Health Care Assistant and Nursing Assistant Programs charged certified nursing assistant **Christine Marie Riley** (NC10006340, HC00136928) with unprofessional conduct. She allegedly took 30 oxycodone tablets from a patient, and diverted them for herself.

In July 2010 the Nursing Commission reinstated the license of licensed practical nurse **Tijuan M. Robinson** (LP00053123) and placed restrictions against his license. He must comply with terms and conditions set against his license.

Snohomish County

In July 2010 the Unlicensed Practice Program issued a notice of intent to issue cease and desist

order to **Kiran Qureshi**. He allegedly used laser energy during a vein therapy treatment on a patient causing the patient to burn and leave permanent scarring. He doesn't hold a credential to practice as a health care provider in Washington.

Spokane County

In July 2010 the Chemical Dependency and Licensed Mental Health Counselor Programs charged **Sheri Hoveskeland** (CP00004728, LH00009556) with unprofessional conduct. She allegedly entered into a romantic and/or sexual relationship with a patient. She was also convicted of three counts of making a false or misleading statement to a public servant.

In July 2010 the Nursing Assistant Program charged certified nursing assistant **Courtney A. Sevier** (NA60026390, NC60022959) with unprofessional conduct. She allegedly failed to consult the medication administration record to verify medication and treatment orders, failed to record medications given, and failed to take a patient's blood pressure before giving a medication.

Thurston County

In July 2010 the Dental Hygienist Program modified a prior order and placed the license of **Cheryl Clark** (DH00006371) on probation for three years. She must comply with terms and conditions set against her license.

In July 2010 the Nursing Commission charged registered nurse **Karen R. Courtney** (RN00168282) with unprofessional conduct. She allegedly failed to comply with terms and conditions set against her license.

In July 2010 the Nursing Assistant Program reinstated the registration of **Rachel L. Gandesbery** (NA00114733).

In July 2010 the Occupational Therapy Practice Board charged **Jessica B. Markowitz** (OT00003968) with unprofessional conduct. A patient was allegedly burned when she applied hot packs to the patient when none were in the treatment plan, and then left the patient alone.

In July 2010 the Nursing Assistant Program charged **Charles J. Watson** (NA60082350) with unprofessional conduct. He allegedly had sexual intercourse with a patient.

Yakima County

In August 2010 the Chemical Dependency Professional Program charged **Marshall Clark** (CP00003618) with unprofessional conduct. He allegedly entered into a romantic and sexual relationship with a patient.

In July 2010 the Nursing Assistant Program amended the statement of charges against certified nursing assistant **Joan M. Lakey** (NC10036163). She allegedly engaged in a verbal and physical altercation with a vulnerable adult patient.

Out of State

Arizona: In July 2010 the Board of Pharmacy charged pharmacy assistant **Jeff A. Wicks** (VB00064455) with unprofessional conduct. He allegedly presented a forged Washington State pharmacy technician license to an employer for purposes of obtaining employment, and lied to his employer and the board's investigator about the license. He isn't licensed as a pharmacy technician in Washington.

Oregon: In July 2010 the Medical Commission modified an order restricting the license of physician **Edward A. McCluskey** (MD00043587) His license in Oregon was recently restricted.

Tennessee: In June 2010 the Medical Commission denied the application of physician assistant **Rebekah P. Cashin** (PA60075018). She made dishonest statements to the university she attended, and made dishonest statements to the commission when explaining why she was on probation at her university.

Wisconsin: In July 2010 the Massage Practitioner Program charged **Heather A. Foth** (MA00012183) with unprofessional conduct. She allegedly advertised her services as a massage practitioner, and provided massages for clients at a time when she didn't hold a massage practitioner credential.

Note to Editors: Health care providers charged with unprofessional conduct have 20 days to respond to the Department of Health in writing. The case then enters the settlement process. If no disciplinary agreement can be reached, the case will go to a hearing.

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| Visit the Washington Department of Health website at http://www.doh.wa.gov for a healthy dose of information. |
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